



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Fourth Special Session
26 and 27 June 2018

C-SS-4/NAT.50
27 June 2018
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

PERU

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARCO BALAREZO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PERU TO THE OPCW
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the GRULAC Member States, and wishes to make the following additional comments in its national capacity.

Peru has upheld its commitment to the destruction and non-proliferation of chemical weapons since the Convention came into force. For this reason, we are deeply concerned by the recurring use of toxic chemicals as weapons in incidents that have taken place in the Syrian Arab Republic, Malaysia, Iraq, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. We reiterate our condemnation of these incidents, which without a doubt constitute a violation of the spirit of the Convention and an attack against international peace and security.

Peru has carefully followed the developments within the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and has been an active participant in its regulatory bodies. My country joined the International Partnership against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons established in Paris at the start of this year and, as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, we have called for solutions that would make it possible to prevent the perpetrators of these horrible crimes from remaining unpunished. We are concerned that despite the efforts of the international community, chemical weapons continue to be used in various parts of the world.

For Peru it is clear that the Security Council is tasked with overseeing international peace and security, in addition to imposing sanctions or taking the appropriate decisions to ensure that the perpetrators of these horrendous crimes do not go unpunished. Similarly, Peru recognises that the full implementation of all of the pillars of the Convention and strengthening the capabilities of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW contribute to this goal.

For the above reasons, Peru has from the beginning supported convening this special session of the Conference. It is for us a space where the States Parties have the opportunity to express their opinion and renew, in a joint manner, their condemnation of the use of chemical weapons, while sending a powerful signal to reinforce the norms against the use of toxic chemicals as weapons.



Peru believes that any decision that results from this special session of the Conference of the States Parties must contain some of the basic principles that, in our point of view, are necessary for strengthening the Convention.

First of all, it must remain within the legal framework of the Convention and in strict compliance with international law. The decision that we adopt must be unequivocal in terms of its scope and implementation.

Second, it must address immediate concerns without abandoning the other pillars of the Convention, particularly those that concern strengthening cooperation aimed at achieving full implementation.

Third, we support the proposal to establish a mechanism of attribution within the OPCW, while highlighting that this is derived from the functions assigned to it at the Conference of the States Parties, in accordance with subparagraph 21(k) of Article VIII of the Convention.

For Peru, it is of the utmost importance that this mechanism be limited to the technical nature that defines the work of the Technical Secretariat. Its reports should be put forward for the consideration of the Executive Council and the Conference, both of which, according to the provisions set out in Article VIII of the Convention, should refer serious or urgent cases to the attention of the United Nations Security Council.

Finally, Peru favours consensus, and in the event that such is not possible, it believes that only a decision representing the largest possible majority of States Parties to the Convention will provide the legitimacy necessary to strengthen the values and standards to which all of us have made a commitment.

The important advances in the destruction of chemical arsenals and recognition such as the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 should serve as an incentive for the OPCW and its States Parties to take advantage of this moment to redouble their efforts to strengthen the Convention and with it, attain a greater contribution to achieving and maintaining international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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